

Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring
Lake Waccamaw and Waccamaw River in North Carolina

Project Summary:

The Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER® wants to expand a volunteer water quality monitoring effort (currently in place along the Waccamaw River in South Carolina) upstream into the North Carolina portion of the Waccamaw watershed.

A North Carolina working group has been formed to include representatives from the North Carolina state parks system, Southeastern Community College, the Town of Lake Waccamaw, the N.C. Division of Water Quality, and Coastal Carolina University in addition to the Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER®.

The purpose of the project is to capture long-term water quality data throughout the entire watershed, which includes Lake Waccamaw and the Waccamaw River within North and South Carolina. Like that being captured in South Carolina, these data will inform stakeholders about water quality conditions and/or problems as they develop over time in the watershed. By establishing strategic monitoring points, the program seeks to identify current conditions and potential sources of pollution so they can be addressed quickly and effectively.

The North Carolina project will use the methodology established from South Carolina and test parameters such as: conductivity, dissolved oxygen, pH, ammonia, nitrate, nitrite, turbidity, e. coli, phosphorous (on the lake), and fecal coliform (on the lake). Initially, there will be four test sites on the lake and two test sites on the river. Eventually, the project will include seven test sites on the lake and five sites on the river. Testing will be done twice a month (on the second and fourth Wednesday mornings) year-round.

Volunteers Needed:

The project in North Carolina will be administered by the N.C. working group but the success of the project will be determined by the volunteers who participate. By maintaining a volunteer workforce, the program will be cost-effective and engage local residents in stewardship of this important natural resource.

To become a volunteer, or to learn more about the project, contact the Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER® at (843) 349-4007 or wrk@coastal.edu or Lake Waccamaw State Park 910-646-4748 or lake.waccamaw@ncmail.net. For more information on what is currently going on in South Carolina please visit this link: <http://www.coastal.edu/wwwa/vm/index.html>.